

Message Text

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FOR ARA LABOR ADVISOR

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, OAS, MX

SUBJECT: OAS FEASIBILITY STUDY--VISIT OF SAN SEBASTIAN

REF: STATE 209450

1. DURING MEETING LABOR ATTACHE HAD WITH AIDA GONZALEZ (DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR GOM LABOR SECRETARIAT), LATTER MENTIONED THAT SHE AND LABOR SECRETARY PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA HAD MET WITH RUBENS SAN SEBASTIAN FOR ABOUT AN HOUR ON AFTERNOON OF AUG 18. SHE CLAIMED THAT OJEDA HAD FIRMLY REJECTED THE SUGGESTION FOR CREATION OF ANY TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE WITHIN THE OAS. OJEDA REPORTEDLY TOLD SAN SEBASTIAN THE GOM WOULD COOPERATE WITH ANY ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT GREATER OAS ATTENTION TO LABOR AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS, BUT THAT HE VIEWS "TRIPARTITE EFFORT" SIMPLY AS A TRICK TO UNDERCUT THE ILO, TO WHICH GOM IS FULLY COMMITTED. SAN SEBASTIAN REPORTEDLY WAS TOLD THAT THEY COULD EXPECT NO MORAL OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM MEXICO FOR ANY SUCH EFFORT. SHE SAYS SAN SEBASTIAN MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO CALL ON CTM CHIEF FIDEL VELASQUEZ. HE APPARENTLY MADE NO EFFORT TO CONTACT THIS EMBASSY.

2. GONZALEZ TOLD LABATT THAT SHE WAS IN FULL SYMPATHY WITH
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THOSE WHO CRITICIZED THE OAS LACK OF ATTENTION TO SOCIAL ISSUES AND THE STEWARDSHIP OF ORFILA. DESPITE ATTEMPTS OF THE LABATT TO CONVINCE HER THAT A DESIRE TO IMPROVE RESPONSIVENESS TO SOCIAL ISSUES WAS PROBABLY BEHIND THE MOVE TO BROADEN OAS PARTICIPATION, SHE REMAINED CONVINCED THAT THE EFFORT WAS MOTIVATED "ALMOST 100 PERCENT BY DESIRES TO REPLACE THE ILO INFLUENCE WITH THAT OF THE OAS IN LATIN

AMERICA."

3. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT "THE RADICAL CHIC" GONZALEZ WAS QUITE ACTIVE AND UNCOOPERATIVE WITH U.S. INTERESTS AT JUNE 1977 ILO CONFERENCE. DURING PAST YEAR SECRETARY OJEDA HAS GONE TO PAINS TO CONVINCE LABATT THAT GONZALEZ HAS "MODERATED" AND PERFORMING QUITE CAPABLY IN A TECHNICAL CAPACITY. WE ARE CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MODERATION IS SLIGHT AND THAT SHE STILL EXERCISES A STRONG INFLUENCE OVER OJEDA ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS.

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